

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

11-15-2021

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_The Power of a Story Email

University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Indigenous Studies Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), [Social Justice Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

The Power of a Story

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <robert.jackson@maine.edu>
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <robert.jackson@maine.edu>
To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Mon, Nov 15, 2021 at 5:19 PM



Hi friends-

November continues, as does our celebration of Native American Heritage Month along with it. I hope you are able to join us this Thursday evening at 5:00 PM in the North Pod of Memorial Union for ODI Family Feast. We will have LOTS of delicious food, great company, and an opportunity to come together and celebrate our community here in Orono.

This afternoon, I was fortunate to attend a Lunch and Learn event featuring John Bear Mitchell, a longtime member of the UMaine community, proud Penobscot and Passamaquoddy man, and an engaging and inspiring storyteller. His presentation was on the role of storytelling and oral history in Wabanaki culture, but his message felt so much bigger.

Aside from sharing stories of how the Wabanaki explain the creation of Mt. Katahdin and a muskrat who tried to trade tails with a beaver, John's message included a powerful call to us as people with a divinely beautiful story of our own to share. He reminded us that stories get more powerful the more they are shared, and challenged us to stand firmly in our stories without fear that we'll tell it 'correctly' or that we'll tell it the same way another would.

I think this message translates well to this work we do as well, what we call the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In a world that seems to increasingly value data,

statistics, and hard evidence, our story remains one of our most powerful tools in shaping the hearts and minds of our friends, families, and neighbors. Tell your story. Let it speak for you, your ancestors, the leaders who fought and died so you could live to tell their story today. Take strength and courage from the many shoulders you stand on, and let your voice be one that speaks for justice and truth, even in the face of those who would discount it.

Lastly, it saddens me to share that this will be my last newsletter with the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, and that I will be leaving my role here at UMaine effective this Friday, November 19th. I am, of course, excited for new opportunities and challenges as I continue my work in this field, but I will miss this campus and the people that have been my home since I was a wide-eyed teenager spending my first summer in Orono with the Upward Bound program in 2004.

Reflecting on my own story and how intertwined it is with this place, I hope that I have been able to inspire some of you to push yourselves and the people in your lives to think big, push back against policies, decisions, and systems that leave some of us out, and to allow your story to speak through you. Our experiences as marginalized folks speak volumes more than any study could, and if you're a person with any kind of power, let my last words in this capacity be a call to you. Listen to the marginalized folks you work with, teach, and learn with. They are sharing their story with you, and regardless of how many degrees they hold or how much data they have to validate their experiences for you, they are giving you a gift that you should accept with a grateful heart and open mind.

Let our students and staff who have lived entire lives of survival and resilience be your guideposts and listen to them when they ask for change or support. I love the University of Maine, I love Orono, and I want to believe that systemic change can be born and live here, but it has to start with ourselves. I, and so many other past, current, and future Black Bears, are counting on you.

In solidarity,
Rob Jackson (He/Him)
Staff Associate for Diversity and Inclusion





Lunch and Learn

Diversifying Understandings of Religion

Featuring UMaine's Professor Derek Michaud as guest speaker
**Wednesday, December 1st from
12p.m. to 1p.m. in the
Multicultural Student Center, Room 314 in the Memorial Union**



The University of Maine is
an equal
opportunity/affirmative
action institution

2021 International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Programs

NOVEMBER 17TH-20TH, 2021

Show up for your fellow Black Bears at one of our community programs!

Remembrance Dinner + Dialogue -Wednesday, 11/17 @6pm at the Wilson Center

Join us for a filling vegetarian dinner followed up with a rich discussion about how we remember those we've lost facilitated by the Interfaith Group!

Community Dialogue- Friday, 11/19 @2pm in the Bangor Room, Memorial Union

This event focuses on the barriers and pathways to cultivating hope, healing, and resilience in the UMaine community through interactive activities and reflective discussion.

Solidarity Vigil- Friday, 11/19 @7pm in the Steam plant lot

We invite all Black Bears and members of the local community to join us for a socially distanced vigil to express our solidarity with those who have lost loved ones to suicide, and those who struggle with suicidal ideation.

Survivors of Suicide Loss Discussion- Saturday, 11/20 @10am at the Wilson Center

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is an event in which survivors of suicide loss come together to find connection, understanding, and hope through their shared experience. To register go to bit.ly/UMISOSL21 or scan the QR code below!

Email dominique.dispirito@maine.edu for more information!



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



SCAN ME

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

2021 INTERNATIONAL SURVIVORS
OF SUICIDE LOSS DAY

Survivors' Discussion

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH @10AM
WILSON CENTER, 67 COLLEGE
AVENUE IN ORONO

International Survivors of
Suicide Loss Day is an event
in which survivors of suicide
loss come together to find
connection, understanding,
and hope through their shared
experience. Masks will be
required.

REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AT [BIT.LY/UMISOSL21](https://bit.ly/UMISOSL21).
EMAIL DOMINIQUE.DISPIRITO@MAINE.EDU
WITH QUESTIONS!



SCAN ME

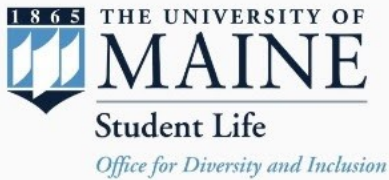


**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



Robina Asti, a 99-year-old transgender veteran, is fighting for LGBTQ rights. Robina passed away in March 2021, but her words remain powerful and compelling today.



"The University of Maine is an
equal opportunity/affirmative
action institution."



JOIN US WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS AT 3PM ON ZOOM FOR LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT GROUP

Starts on September 29th, 2021

**SIGN UP BY EMAILING
JULIA TANER AT
JULIA.TANER@MAINE.EDU**

THIS GROUP IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COUNSELING
CENTER. THIS GROUP IS A PRIVATE, NON-
CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT GROUP.



Fidget Toy making program Wednesday, November 17th at noon! We will be providing beads and yarn to make a woven type of fidget toy, to relieve stress and anxiety during Fall Break and Finals Week!

Community Building with Students of Color

*Get to know other students of color and staff
in an informal community space.*

*Food provided with great conversation and
activities.*

DATE : 11/18 / MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER / TIME: 12-1 PM

Contact sabrina.murray@maine.edu for more info!

*"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action
institution."*



THE WILSON CENTER
INVITES YOU TO OUR WEEKLY



MEDITATION GROUP

Thursdays 6-7PM at The Wilson Center
67 College Ave. in Orono

please bring a mask
all are welcome, beginner and expert

RSVPS APPRECIATED - ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE BY REQUEST
WILSONCENTERORONO@GMAIL.COM

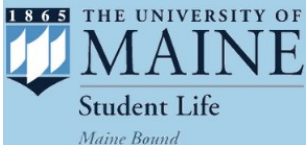
CALL FOR ARTISTS!

\$100 REWARD!

Your artwork could hang in the Rec Center and/or Maine Bound for years to come!

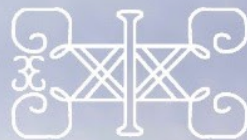

Design a banner to showcase the spirit of campus recreation and its diversity, equity, and inclusion values.

<https://umaine.edu/campusrecreation/diversity-inclusion/callforartists/>



"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."

Questions?
beth.jackson
@maine.edu



AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

An opportunity to learn and teach about the
Indigenous Peoples of America

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
4:30 PM
Corbett 210

Contact Sage Neptune (sage.neptune1@maine.edu) for more information



SOLIDARITY MEETING

A SAFE PLACE TO FIND SOLIDARITY! A PLACE TO
SHARE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS
STUDENTS OF COLOR AT UMAINE



MEETING WILL BE HELD BI-WEEKLY
STARTING 9/15/21 AT 2PM
SIGN UP VIA ATTACHED LINK

*This meeting is offered online for the time being. Students must be
physically in Maine to attend.*



The University of Maine is an equal
opportunity/affirmative action institute
Students should request accommodations a
week in advance



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

MONDAYS 6PM-7PM

WHATS OUR PURPOSE?

The purpose of American Sign Language (ASL) Club is to get club members comfortable with signing an introduction of who they are/where they come from in order to feel prepared to engage in conversation with deaf or hard of hearing people. Students will be a part of bridging the gap between hearing and Deaf cultures; they will gain new perspective. This preparedness will also come through learning about Deaf culture and the proper use of ASL.

WHERE?

We are currently meeting in front of the bear statue (on the opposite end of the library). When it gets too cold, we will relocate inside!

CONTACT:

Please direct any questions to our President, Morgan Oehler, or Vice President, Shanna Scribner: Morgan.oehler@maine.edu, Shanna.scribner@maine.edu



The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



Seeking Survey Participants

Earn a \$20 Amazon gift card

Are you from Maine?
Are you LGBTQ+?
Did you leave your rural hometown to live elsewhere?

Zach Davis, Dr. Jessica Leahy and Dr. Kathleen Bell
are seeking study participants for one hour Zoom
interviews in the Fall of 2021.

Follow this link to an eligibility
survey, or scan the QR code:

<https://bit.ly/2X4h1ka>





Fall 2021
Hebrew
Year 5782

Weekly Meetings

Wednesday @ 5pm at the
Multicultural Student Center
3rd Floor, Memorial Union

- Holiday Events and Services
- Jewish Cooking
- Resources and Support
- Shabbat Dinners
- Fun and Games
- Volunteer Opportunities

*The University of Maine is an equal
opportunity/affirmative action institution*

To learn more
contact our president at
sarah.meyerwaldo@maine.edu
or message us on facebook
or on instagram @umainehillel





Asian STUDENT ASSOCIATION

6 - 7 PM every other Friday at Room 312,
Memorial Union

WHO WE ARE

We are a student organization who welcomes **everyone** from different backgrounds to join us for our events.

WHAT WE DO

Join our general meetings for fun games, movie nights, cooking and study sessions. Have fun and make friends along the way!

CONTACT

annapurna.leung@maine.edu
anna.bishop@maine.edu
abigayl.novak@maine.edu

FOLLOW US

Facebook: University of Maine Asian Student Association
Instagram: @asa_umaine

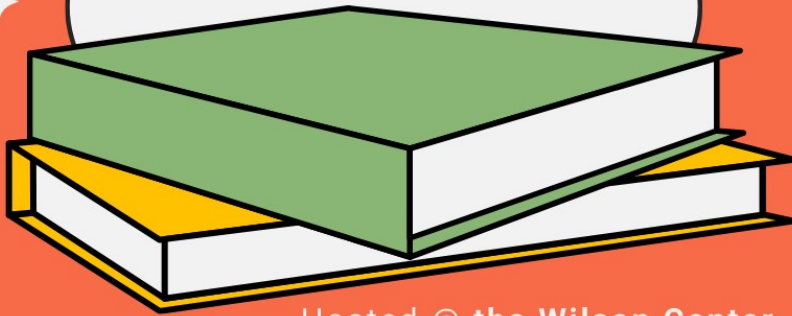


"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."

Tired of paying hundreds for textbooks and selling them back for pennies?
Check out UMaine's new **student-to-student**

FREE TEXTBOOK LIBRARY!

TAKE A BOOK - LEAVE A BOOK - PAY IT FORWARD



Hosted @ **the Wilson Center**
67 College Ave. in Orono
Donation bin on the front porch

Are you passionate about spiritual
exploration and multifaith dialogue?

Join the UMaine Interfaith Group!

—
MONDAYS @ 6PM
WILSON CENTER, ORONO

Email dominique.dispirito@maine.edu with
questions! We hope to see you there!

The University of Maine is an equal
opportunity/affirmative action institution.



This email was sent to matthew.revitt@maine.edu

why did I get this? [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

UMaine Multicultural Student Life · 5748 Memorial Union, 3rd Floor, Room 312 · Orono, Me 04469 · USA

